

James Whitcomb Riley had the heart of a boy and the soul of an artist. "Mr. Riley" is a personal tribute to the American people's poet, by Booth Tarkington in this week's

Collier's

The exhibition and sale of art work which has appeared in Collier's is now open at 500 Fifth Avenue, 36th Street.

point where all necessary munitions can be manufactured at home. American contracts are not being renewed, but not insurmountable difficulties, in concentrating the foodstuffs shipments at Halifax. It is not believed that France and the other allies will follow the example of Great Britain in arming merchant ships fore and aft. The British appear to have made a success of this means of meeting the submarine peril. The others have not been so successful.

The President's friends here are even more emphatic now than Secretary Lansing was last Thursday, in his first statement, that the Wilson peace note was in itself "not a peace note at all," but a move in the attempt, based on a desperate hope, to induce Germany to hold back on the submarine attacks. But the Wilson peace note emphatically became a reinforcement of the German position on account of its timing.

Believe Timing Was Deliberate That timing, before the Lloyd George speech had been delivered and before the allied governments had had time to read, much less digest, the haughty German peace note, undoubtedly deliberate. It was a calculated move to induce here where we are in sympathy with Mr. Wilson. It was a case, they say, of a man forced to make up his mind on a policy of tremendous importance almost within an hour.

There was no reason, judging by effects, for deception of any sort. The only effect was upon the stock market. The market was steady from Friday to Tuesday morning because of the belief that there would be no American peace note.

Allies Speeding Up War As a peace note pure and simple, which, according to Secretary Lansing, the American note is not to be considered, the American note is at least a year too early. It was pointed out here today in Entente quarters that Great Britain, France and Russia had just reorganized their governments for the definitely stated purpose of prosecuting the war more vigorously. It is not likely that the Germans will get far with efforts toward peace based on the war map and upon declared military advantages until the new Cabinets of the Allies have had full opportunity to show what they can do.

No more blunders such as that at Gallipoli and in the Balkans are to be expected. The representatives of the Allies look upon the present condition as the German high-water mark, from which the Germans must recede with every succeeding month of war.

At the weekly meetings of the Executive Committee

THE Columbia Trust Company's Executive Committee meets every Thursday. At these meetings the Executive Committee discusses at length the general financial policies of the Company.

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GERMAN FAILURE TO STATE TERMS DISAPPOINTS U. S.

Diplomacy Now Relied On by Wilson to Bridge War Chasm

PEACE CAUSE AIDED, IS THE 'OFFICIAL VIEW'

Worried Over Proposal to Deal Later with Guarantees for Future

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 26.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's note is regarded here as having advanced the peace movement another step, despite the fact that it disappoints in not meeting his suggestion for an avowal of terms.

The reception of Germany's reply among the Entente Allies, whose statements have publicly declared against such a programme, now becomes the point upon which a further move is hinged. The German note probably is the prelude to a series of carefully considered delicate moves in the great game of world diplomacy, all possibly leading to an approach for a real discussion of peace terms on grounds which all the belligerents can accept as placing them at no disadvantage.

Wilson Keeping Open Mind This is the official view of Germany's reply so far as it has been formulated on the basis of the unofficial text. The official copy had not been received to night, and President Wilson was keeping his mind open.

Neutral diplomatic quarters, too, regarded the note as a step toward peace, and rather leaned to the view that Germany might follow it with a confidential communication of some sort outlining her terms.

The view of the Entente embassies, frankly expressed, was that the note was not an answer to President Wilson's communication, but rather a document for circulation in Germany and in neutral countries, with the object of moulding opinion to place the responsibility for continuing the war on the Entente.

Among the Germanic diplomats the only view expressed was one of surprise that the reply had preceded receipt of the Entente's response to Germany's original peace proposal of December 12.

Failure to State Terms It was everywhere agreed that the principal sticking point was the lack of a definite statement of terms such as President Wilson asked and such as Lloyd George declared the Allies would accept. The German note raised the "heads in a house with the rope end in the hands of the Germans."

It is not beyond the realm of diplomacy, however, to find a way to bridge that difficulty, and Germany's failure in not regarding as a block to the negotiations, although it makes them exceedingly difficult.

Germany's declaration that she regards the work of securing the world against future wars as a work to be taken up after the present conflict is ended was regarded with a diversity of opinion.

Those taking this view referred to Lloyd George's declaration that the Allies would consider it possible to enter a conference with Germany would first openly offer "reparation, restitution and guarantees."

The German reply is regarded as not only failing to do this, but its suggestion that the work be left for the future, it is feared, may raise a difficult obstacle for the Allied statesmen to surmount with their own people, to whom an absolutely durable peace has been held out as one of the main justifications of the war.

Unpopular as such a concession might be to the Entente countries, the very enormity of the subject, viewed in the cold light of diplomacy, is regarded here as sufficient to require a separate conference, but one which might properly be intertwined with the peace meeting.

Nearly Wrecked Hague Meet One suggestion is that the conference might find the belligerents in a solemn declaration and pledge to carry out reorganization of the international balance and leave the actual details, such as demobilization, limitation of armaments, military budgets and the like for a separate conference untrammelled by the difficulties sure to surround the first meeting.

Germany's proposal for an immediate meeting of delegates at a neutral place is received as admittedly much more specific than the original proposal to "enter forthwith into peace negotiations," and to go even further than President Wilson's suggestion that "soundings be taken."

This alone is singled out by those who regard the reply as a step toward peace, despite the repeated declarations of Allied statesmen that it was impossible without a statement of Germany's terms. They expect these two positions, apparently far apart, to be reconciled by the art of diplomacy.

Recent Coupling of Notes How far the United States can or will be concerned in that can only be decided by President Wilson. Officials assume that Germany expects the United States to inform her enemies of her reply.

attention turns to the reply of the Entente governments. At their embassies here the view prevails that the German note is a calculated move to induce here where we are in sympathy with Mr. Wilson. It was a case, they say, of a man forced to make up his mind on a policy of tremendous importance almost within an hour.

Henderson Says Peace Now Will Mean Slavery Paris, Dec. 26.—In addresses at the National Congress of the French Socialist party, Arthur Henderson, the British Cabinet Minister, and G. H. Roberts, member of the British Parliament, both affirmed amid enthusiastic cheers that the war must be fought until full guarantees have been obtained for a lasting peace.

"In my opinion," said Mr. Henderson, "if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that the price our enemies would exact for peace to-day."

Belgians Opposed to Peace Emile Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist leader, said: "Our comrades who have remained in invaded Belgium endure German domination with admirable firmness. Nothing but encouragement reaches us from them. So that it would seem that the persons most hostile to war are those furthest from it."

M. Vandervelde also declared that the struggle must be carried on until Belgium and Serbia are delivered and "Cesarism is laid low."

In his speech Mr. Henderson said: "In my opinion, we have now reached the most dangerous and difficult period of the war. During the next few months the democracies of England and France are going to be tested as never before."

He misunderstood me, I do not mean that the stress and strain of fighting in the field will be more severe, although I do not ignore such a possibility. But the danger is of entirely a different order. It is the danger of a great spiritual conflict, upon the result of which depend all our great ideals. If we enter into negotiations now we do so when Germany is not repeating her surrendering and not repeating in the success of her military efforts—in fact, in the victory of German imperialism.

Predicts Peace League "I cannot tell you how many months and what sacrifices stand between us and victory. But I can tell you what will be the rewards of victory if we are true to ourselves."

"We are not only fighting a negative ambition against material forces which are highly organized, but we are engaged in a great spiritual conflict, upon the result of which depend all our great ideals. If we enter into negotiations now we do so when Germany is not repeating her surrendering and not repeating in the success of her military efforts—in fact, in the victory of German imperialism."

Choice to-day is between an untimely peace with years of fear and a few months of suffering with a lasting peace. Taking into consideration all the consequences of our decision, I say that now, as in August, 1914, both nations are presented with the choice as between honor and infamy. The choice is more sacred now, as the cause has been sealed by the blood of our heroic dead.

Retrival of War Ends Now "We in Britain feel that to make peace now, to think of peace at any time with less than full indemnity for the past and full security for the future, would be to desert our allies and betray the hopes of freedom throughout the world."

"We hate war. It is brutal, the negation of everything for which we stand. Therefore we must prevent its recurrence so far as our power goes. We desire to see the democracies of the world free to progress to their highest ideals."

"To accomplish this we must stand together for the destruction of militarism, the vindication of national right and liberty, the punishment of national wrong. Be the nations large or small, they must be free."

MME. DE THEBES, PROPHET, IS DEAD Continued from page 1 they will fall on him from all sides." And when the warning is issued, the warning: "Do not sell your wheat and corn to Europe; it will be needed at home."

The vogue of Mme. de Thebes in the United States dates from the time of the San Francisco earthquake, which she forecast, though in rather indefinite form, several months before it took place. Since that time several of her American prophecies have come true, among them the overwhelming defeat of President Taft in 1912, because he had not been "picturesque enough in office," the interruption of traffic in the Panama Canal and numerous floods, fires and financial panics.

Her yearly almanacs point to scores of Mme. de Thebes' prophecies concerning foreign events which have proved true and on which rests her great reputation in Europe. Constantly boasting of her few successes and ignoring her many failures, she was able to retain her grip unshaken on the thousands who eagerly watched for every new word from her lips.

Some of Her Successes The following successes in foresight either have been ascribed to Mme. de Thebes by herself or her devotees, or have been proved by reliable records: The downfall of the Second Empire, the Boer War, the second Balkan war, the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia, the discovery of radium, the capture of Khartoum, President Carnot's assassination, the sudden and mysterious death of President Faure, Queen Victoria's death ("to the very minute," say the records), the assassination of King Humbert of Italy, the Japanese-Russian war and the intervention of President Roosevelt, Zola's death, the disastrous floods in Paris in 1910, the death of Pope Pius X, the Messina earthquake, which she is reported to have described in correct detail the previous year, and the Irish revolt of last year.

She warned Colonel John Jacob Astor several months before the Titanic was sunk not to travel on the sea during the succeeding year.

TEUTONS NEARER TO BESSARABIA

Mackensen Presses Advance and Captures 6,500 Russians

SLAVS MAY HALT Foe AT TRAJAN'S WALL

Ninth German Army Menaces Final Positions in Dobrudja

London, Dec. 26.—Mackensen is steadily pushing his campaign on the Moldavian frontier and in Northern Dobrudja. Advancing along the railroad from Buzau to Braila to-day, the Teutons captured at the point of the bayonet the town of Filipceci and the powerful defended heights on both sides. It took a day of violent fighting for the Germans to expel the Russians. The Teutons clung desperately to the houses of the village, and it was not until the enemy shells had started a conflagration that the defenders surrendered the position.

In the Dobrudja the tenacious resistance of Sakharoff's troops broke down in the course of a battle that lasted most of the day. Nearly 1,000 Russians were taken prisoner by the allied Teutonic forces on this front, while recent operations on the edge of the Wallachian plain cost them 5,500 more prisoners.

While Berlin claims to-night the capture of "several positions in Great Dobrudja," they are left undisputed along the line of Trajan's wall, the remains of which still link the Pruth with the Black Sea. Military observers here are already speculating on the possibility of a Russian defense along the line which Trajan fortified to check the onrush of the Dacian legions at the dawn of the second century.

It is not improbable that a Teutonic invasion of Bessarabia from its southern lip will be met by a Russian stand along the line of Trajan's wall, the remains of which still link the Pruth with the Black Sea. Military observers here are already speculating on the possibility of a Russian defense along the line which Trajan fortified to check the onrush of the Dacian legions at the dawn of the second century.

Front of Field Marshal von Mackensen. During engagements on the great Wallachian Plain and on the edge of the mountain south of Rinnik Sarat during the last few days 5,500 Russians were taken prisoner.

Yesterday frequently-tested German divisions with auxiliary battalions of Austro-Hungarians, stormed at the point of the bayonet the tenaciously defended village of Filipceci on the railroad from Buzau to Braila, together with strongly entrenched Russian positions adjoining on both sides.

The Bulgarian official statement issued to-day reads: In Dobrudja the enemy, after a violent struggle on the line of Lake Bahadag, Washkovo, Kamearova and Tuerkova was repulsed on the whole front. Bulgarian, German and Turkish troops took prisoner 950 more Russians and captured three machine guns.

Petrograd, Dec. 26.—The Russian official statement issued to-day reads: On the Moldavian frontier, in the valley of the River Kasino, Rumanian troops by a daring attack regained one of the heights lost by them yesterday. On the Rumanian front the enemy made fierce attacks at the source of the River Srichita, in the region of

Dragatskoff. They were repelled by Rumanian counter attacks which secured three machine guns. At the source of the River Rinnik the enemy pressed back our advanced posts.

In the valley of the River Kilnau, west of Rinnik Sarat, enemy attacks were repelled. Throughout the day the enemy, with considerable forces, made a number of attacks on the Filipceci-Lichkotianka front, which were repulsed with great losses. The fighting was especially fierce in the village of Filipceci, which on being set fire by the enemy artillery was evacuated.

In Dobrudja there was an exchange of patrol fire.

Surprise Attack Straightens Carso Line—150 Cases of Shells Taken

Rome, Dec. 26.—"There have been desultory actions along the whole front, interfered with somewhat by bad weather," says to-day's War Office statement.

"On the Carso, south of Montefalco, we straightened our lines by a surprise advance to a depth of 300 yards. In one of the crater-like hollows in the area occupied by us we found 150 cases of artillery ammunition which had been abandoned by the enemy."

Venice, Dec. 26.—"The artillery fire was more active temporarily on the Carso plateau," says the official Austrian report of December 24 from the Italian front.

League of Peace WILL BRING WAR, DR. DUTTON SAYS

Pacifist Warns Against U. S. Abandoning Monroe Doctrine for European Entanglements

Dr. Samuel L. Dutton, educator and peace advocate, last night issued a statement deprecating any proposal that the United States enter a coalition with European powers to establish a league to enforce peace. Such a move, he declares, would mean the abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine and bind the United States to place its army and navy at the disposal of foreign powers who might wish to make war upon a neutral number who might break an agreement.

"The issue suddenly raised before the American people is momentous," says Dr. Dutton in his statement. "It presents itself thus: Shall we join a compact with European and Asiatic powers whereby they would be compelled to use their armies and navies jointly in any part of the world in case any member of the coalition broke its word and committed an act of war without submitting its real or supposed grievance to impartial inquiry?"

"There can be no question as to the answer which the people of this country will give to such a dangerous proposal. They will never permit the government at Washington to enmesh this country in the shifting, uncertain, explosive affairs of the Old World. They will refuse to abandon the Monroe Doctrine, they will refuse to abandon their complete political detachment from incessant quarrels of conflicting governments across the seas—a detachment from entangling alliances which today are more important for us to preserve than it was at the time when, with prophetic vision, Washington solemnly warned his fellow countrymen not to abandon it."

"We have not yet arrived at a point where we will permit England, or Germany, or France, or Russia, or Japan, or Siam, or any other nation, larger or smaller, to decide questions of war and peace according to our Constitution. The American Congress alone has power to declare war; without amending the Constitution that power cannot be conferred upon a council of foreign governments."

"From the dawn of history no coalition after another has been formed by European and Asiatic powers. In no case have the conditions survived longer than a comparatively few years. These leagues to enforce peace have invariably failed. When the present war ends the time will be at hand to try the only experiment in world affairs which has not been tried, and which seems eminently practicable—the establishment of an international court, a world court, modeled after the Supreme Court at Washington, whose decisions will be supported and carried out by the single greatest force in existence—the sheer force of public opinion."

"Apparently there is danger that Washington may take some action looking toward the entrance of this country into a coalition based on arms. In other words, a league to enforce peace."

"I therefore urge all men and women who likewise hesitate to place the historic policy of our nation in jeopardy to make known their feeling by immediately writing, or better yet, by telegraphing their Senators and Representatives at Washington. In no other way can the members of Congress have unquestionable proof as to where the people of this country stand in this all-important matter."

DECLARE BATTLE ENDED ON SOMME

Germans Assert They Are Stronger than When Allies Attacked

MANY NEW LINES OF TRENCHES READY

Work Done After Complete Cessation of Entente Onslaughts

Berlin, Dec. 26 (By wireless to Sayville).—The almost complete cessation of the fighting on the Somme front during the last four weeks has enabled the Germans to complete a new system of trenches along the whole front, says the military critic of the Overseas News Agency in an article to-day. He declares the great battle that began there on July 1 may now be considered to have been terminated, and declares that the fact of the Germans being enabled to reconstruct their line means that all the efforts and losses of the five months' offensive by the Entente forces were in vain, as, if it is desired to resume the attack, it must be begun all over again as in the beginning.

As to the new defenses the writer says that they have been perfected to such a degree that even the foremost trenches are now protected by barbed wire, with the troops holding them occupying deep dugouts and having adequately protected communication trenches. Moreover, he asserts, the new defensive lines are stronger than those of July 1, "as behind the first line trenches, which were constructed under hostile artillery fire, are more than a dozen of the strongest sort of defensive lines which have been built absolutely without interference and with great care."

London, Dec. 26.—A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam to-day says: "German newspapers are being instructed to declare that the Somme battle has now been really finished. They state that the German position is now stronger than on July 1, and that behind the foremost German lines are more than a dozen very strong defensive lines."

Allied Troops Keep Up Sharp Patrol Attacks

London, Dec. 26.—Heavy artillery and minor infantry activity continued along the West front during Christmas night and to-day. All idea of a Christmas truce was abandoned by the Germans when the sharp patrol assaults with which the British and French troops began the day were kept up till midnight without a breathing spell.

Although these efforts failed to win the Allied forces any advantages—Berlin announcing the "repeated repulse of strong British patrol advances"—the constant hammering at the vulnerable spot in their defenses evidently is taking effect on the nerves of the German troops. Never knowing where the attack is coming from and whether it means a small operation or another big push such as Nivelle's victory on the Meuse has prepared them for, the Kaiser's soldiers are obtaining little rest.

The Indomito class consists of ten

U-Boat's Shots Miss Ship

Newport News, Va., Dec. 26.—The captain of the Italian steamer *Flete* reported to-day on arrival at Old Point that his ship was attacked by a submarine and fired upon five times several weeks ago in the Mediterranean, yet escaped undamaged. She was from Genoa to Madeira.

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TWO ALLIED VESSELS SUNK, VIENNA REPORTS

Patrol Boats Destroyed After Sharp Engagement in Strait of Otranto

Berlin, Dec. 26 (by wireless to Sayville).—Two Allied patrol boats were sunk and four other Allied warships were damaged in the recent naval engagement in the Strait of Otranto, the Austrian Admiralty announces. Two Austrian destroyers were hit.

The Austrian announcement follows: "On the night of December 22-23 four Austro-Hungarian destroyers made a raid in the Otranto Strait and after an engagement sank two armed patrol boats. On their way back at least six hostile destroyers of greater size and speed, evidently of the Indomito class, blocked their way. A violent combat with guns ensued. One hostile destroyer was set on fire and three others were hit several times at short range. The enemy's sea forces, among which was one vessel of a more powerful and unknown type, were routed. "One of our destroyers was hit twice in the funnel and another was hit in the superstructure. One man was killed. There were no wounded."

The Indomito class consists of ten



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